

WILLARS et al
Serial No. 09/842,027

Atty Dkt: 2380-232
Art Unit: 2662

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend the specification.
2. Thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 47-68.
3. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2, 5-8, 10-13, 16-23, 25, 27-31, 33-36 and 39-46.
4. Rewrite allowable apparatus claims 2, 16, 19, 20, and 23, and allowable method claims 25, 39, 42, 43, 44, and 46 as independent claims.
5. Amend, e.g., the dependencies of apparatus claims 3, 4, 5, 9, 14, and 15, and method claims 26, 27, and 32, to depend upon (and, in some cases, for consistency with) a rewritten independent claim.
6. Cancel claims 1 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.
7. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 24, 26, 32 and 37-38 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,801,542 to Subbiah. Claims 14 and 37 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,801,542 to Subbiah. All prior art rejections are moot in view of the present amendments. The present amendments are implemented for sake of prosecution efficiency and without prejudice for pursuing subject matter such as that of independent claims 1 and 24, for example, in further applications.

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C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

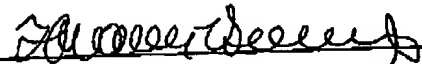
The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100